* Separate constitution for special markets for commodities like onions, fruits, vegetables, flowers etc.

* A separate chapter to regulate and promote contract farming arrangements in the country.

* Prohibition of commission agency in any transaction of agricultural commodities with the producers.

* Market Committee to promote alternative marketing system, contract farming, direct marketing and farmers/consumers markets.

* State Marketing Boards to promote standardization, grading quality certification, market led extension and training of farmers and market functionaries in marketing related areas.

* Constitution of State Marketing Standards Bureau for promotion of grading, standardization and quality certification of agriculture produce.

The Model Act has been circulated to all State Governments/UT Administrations for further follow up action as the subject matter falls within their purview.

Seed business

1123. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the seed business in the country is increasingly going into the hands of MNCs;

(b) if so, the percentage of seed business under the control of MNCs and Indian seed companies;

(c) the share of the Monsanto and Pro Agro in the business; and

(d) the efforts of the ICAR to develop pure varieties that would have the advantage of hybrids but seed of which could be produced and used by farmers themselves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The organized sector accounts for only about 15% of the total seeds requirements of the country. The balance requirements is met by the unorganized sector and the seeds saved by the farmers. It is estimated that the share of multinational companies in the organized seeds business in India is less than 10%.

(c) The combined share of M/s Monsanto India Ltd. and Pro Agro in the organized seed business in India is estimated to be about 2.5%.

(d) ICAR has developed many high yielding varieties of seeds in a large number of crops. Even in cross-pollinated crops like maize, ICAR has developed synthetic and composites, which can be produced and used by farmers as seeds.

Closed and sick fertilizer factories

1124. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the fertilizers factories in public sector in the country are either closed or sick or running in loss;

(b) whether there is sufficient demand of the fertilizer;

(c) if so, why such factories are either closed or sick; and

(d) whether Government are taking action for improving the condition of such factories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATTRAPAL SINGH): (a) Except National Fertilizers Ltd., Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. and Projects & Development (India) Ltd., other Public Sector Undertakings are either closed [Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd., Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. excepting its Jodhpur Mining Organisation which is to be hived off into a new company and Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Ltd.] or are currently running in loss [Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd., Madras Fertilizers Ltd. and Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Ltd.].